

Forest Hill United Church  
'open doors, open hearts, open minds'



2nd Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 16, 2022 10 a.m.



WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

Prelude: How Great Thou Art VU 238

Welcome, Acknowledgement & Announcements:

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Centering Prayer

Introit: VU 96

**Will you come and see the light from the stable door?  
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.  
It will be your guiding star,  
it will show you who you are;  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

Call to Worship:

Our Mother-Father God  
has made us to be One Body with many members.  
**United and uniting. This is our calling.**  
God calls us to share our diverse gifts  
activated by the one and same Spirit .  
**United and uniting. This is our redemption.**  
God longs for us to be united in love  
and to manifest the Spirit in our different ways.  
**United and uniting. This is our worship.**  
Let us gather to offer praise and worship  
to our Holy God, who challenges us  
and calls us to create *the Beloved Community*.

Gathering Prayer: (All)

**O God, all people are your Beloved,  
across races, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations  
and all the ways we are distinctive from one another.  
We are all manifestations of your image.**

**We are bound together in an inescapable network of  
mutuality and tied to a single garment of destiny.  
You call us into your unending work  
of justice, peace and love.  
Let us know your presence among us now:  
Let us delight in our diversity  
that offers glimpses of the mosaic of your beauty.  
Strengthen us with your steadfast love and  
transform our despairing fatigue into hope-filled action.  
Under the shadow of your wings in this time together  
may we find rest and strength, renewal and hope. Amen.**

Opening Hymn: Love Us into Fullness MV 81

Time for All Ages: John 2:1-11

Prayer that Jesus Taught: see insert

Hymn of Praise: We Praise You, O God VU 218

A Time of Soul Searching:

O God, we long to co-create with you the Beloved  
Community which looks to the common good; privileges all  
equally, and creates societal systems  
which celebrate the humanity and the gifts of all.  
**And yet we focus on our differences, envy each other's  
gifts, devalue manifestations of you that are not like our  
own.**

Perhaps our sin is a slow wait for justice:  
**We allow the voices of brothers and sisters who do not  
look like us, love like us, or worship like us to be silenced.**

Or perhaps we have kept silence ourselves  
in the face of their struggle for full human life.

**For it is not solely hateful words and actions,  
but also appalling silence that follows the path of  
oppression.**

Perhaps our sin is to give in to weariness, discouragement,  
bitterness:

**You have called us to be Your voice for justice, peace and**

**righteousness, yet the work of peace and justice  
overwhelms us at times,**

To build with You *the Beloved Community* seems impossible,  
and we grow weary. We cry, "Peace, peace,"  
but there is no peace within us or around us.

**We find ourselves on the path of hatred and oppression,  
violence and war. Lord, have mercy.**

*- silent reflection -*

Promise of Assurance:

## Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalms 36 VU p.762

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

One: In this is the word of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God**

Reflection:

Special Music: video: My Love Colours Outside the Lines MV 138  
performed by MCC, Toronto

## Responding

Presentation of our Gifts

Sung Response: Spirit, Open My Heart MV 79

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.**

Prayer of Dedication: (All)

**O God, we commit to use all our gifts  
–wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing,  
working of miracles, prophecy, discernment,  
tongues, administration, hospitality,  
and finances–in the service of acting as co-workers  
with you and each other *for peace and justice*  
*to flow like a mighty stream. Amen***

Prayers from our Hearts:

Sung Response: And When You Call for Me MV 96

**And when you call for me,  
I have already answered.  
And when you call for me,  
I am already there.**

Closing Hymn: I See a New Heaven VU 713

Benediction

Choral Ending: MV 220

**Hope shines as the solitary star,  
faith is the inner light.  
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,  
and illumine the pathway home.**

Postlude: (please remain seated)  
How Firm a Foundation VU 660

**Creating the Beloved Community: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday after Epiphany, Martin Luther King, Jr., Weekend** was written by the Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson, Founder and Director of the Center for Spiritual Light, New York City. Copyright 2022 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education.

## Land Acknowledgement

At Forest Hill United Church, we acknowledge that our church is  
built on ancestral, traditional and unceded Wolastoqey land.

## Declaration of a Safe Place

Forest Hill United Church is a safe place for people to gather,  
regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background, family status,  
sexual orientation and gender identity.

## OFFICE

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Worship Leader – Heather Donnelly, LLWL

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Usher – May Houston

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